

VZCZCXRO4238
RR RUEHCHI RUEHCN RUEHDT RUEHHM
DE RUEHJS #0105 3030555
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
R 300555Z OCT 09
FM AMCONSUL SURABAYA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 0487
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 0476
INFO RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 0219
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0186
RUEHJS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 0013
RUEHJS/AMCONSUL SURABAYA 0499

UNCLAS SURABAYA 000105

SIPDIS

DEP FOR EAP/MTS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EPET](#) [ENRG](#) [SENV](#) [ECON](#) [ID](#)

SUBJECT: PRESS RAISE FEARS OF A SECOND MUD DISASTER; CNPC SUBSIDIARY
INSISTS THERE IS NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN

11. (U) Press sources report that on Wednesday, 28 October a mishap at an oil field on Madura Island, East Java Province caused a well to begin spurting water, mud, and gas, raising the specter of a repeat of the Lapindo mud disaster in Sidoarjo. The well is operated by oil company SPE Petroleum, a subsidiary of the China National Petroleum Corporation. According to press reports, the leak has begun to inundate rice fields adjacent to the well.

12. (U) In an official statement to the press, SPE operational manager Akhmadi Sabidi claimed that the mud spraying from the well is "not dangerous" and is "a common incident in Madura." He emphasized that source of the mud is 20 meters below the surface, and as such is easily contained. Amin Widodo, a geologist at the Surabaya Institute of Technology (ITS), confirmed that the oil reservoirs under northern east Java and Madura have high mud content and that it is not uncommon for an oil well to spurt mud. Amin also confirmed that mud coming from a 20-meter depth is easily contained. ConGen Surabaya will closely monitor the situation.

MCCLELLANDCR